

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, BU, US

SUBJECT: NEW RABOTNICKESKI DELO CORRESPONDENT
FOR WASHINGTON

USIA FOR IEE

1. VLADIMIR LANKOV WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT
END OF JULY TO OPEN BUREAU AND BECOME RESIDENT RD
CORRESPONDENT. LANKOV WAS PREVIOUSLY IN US FOR
ONE MONTH TO COVER 1972 ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. BTA CORRESPONDENT TODORCHEV IS SCHEDULED TO
BE REPLACED THIS SUMMER. ACCORDING TO BEST
AVAILABLE INFO ALFRED KRISPIN, WHO OPENED BTA
OFFICE IN NEW YORK IN 1958EQND MOST
RECENTLY WAS IN US ON EAST-WEST ECONOMIC JOURNALISTS
TOUR THIS SPRING, WILL RETURN AS BTA'S US CORRESPONDENT
PROVIDED BUREAU MOVES TO WASHINGTON. DECISION ON
RELOCATION HAS YET TO BE MADE.

3. COMMENT: (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF RD BUREAU,
POSSIBLE SHIFT OF BTA BUREAU TO WASHINGTON AND
ASSIGNMENT OF JOURNALISTS OF KRISPIN AND LANKOV
CALIBRE TO STAFF THEM INDICATES BULGARIAN APPRECIATION
OF INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF US COVERAGE IN BULGARIAN
MEDIA AS US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS ENTER NEW PHASE.

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HOPEFULLY, THE RESULT WILL BE MORE OBJECTIVE TREATMENT

OF THE US THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER IMPORVEMENT
IN RELATIONS. (B) WE ARE STRUCK BY RECENT ASSIGN-
MENT TO US OF RELATIVELY "LIBERAL" GOB OFFICIALS.
TOROMANOV AND KRISPIN FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE
REPUTATIONS OF FREE-THINKING, FAIRLY OBJECTIVE STYLE.
LANKOV, ALTHOUGH NOT PERSONALLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY,
IS SON OF WELL-KNOWN POET ARRESTED DURING STALINIST
ERA AND WHO LIVED TO WRITE ABOUT IT IN A SERIES OF
POEMS REMINISCENT OF SOLZHENITSYN. PRESUMABLY
ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN WITH VIEW TO
OVERCOME GOB REPUTATION OF BEING REPRESENTED
ABROAD BY CONSERVATIVE HARD-LINERS.
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